

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-4 in the reply filed on October 5, 2007 is acknowledged.

Claim 5 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on October 5, 2007.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Specification

2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Hiraoka et al (JP 2001-151834 A).

Regarding claim 1, Hiraoka et al teaches a production process of a foam sheet comprising: a step in which a foamable composition, containing an acid generator that generates an acid or a base generator that generates a base due to an action of an active energy beam (Paragraph 0356 naphthylimidyl trifluoromethane sulfonate), and containing a compound that has a decomposing foamable functional group that decomposes and eliminates one or more types of low boiling point volatile substances by reacting with the acid or base (Paragraph 0356 PS/PtBA copolymer), is formed into the shape of a sheet (Paragraph 0349); and a step in which the sheet is subsequently irradiated with an active energy beam (Paragraph 0349).

Regarding claim 2, Hiraoka et al teaches a production process of a foam sheet according to claim 1, further comprising a heating and foaming step (Paragraph 0346).

Regarding claim 3, Hiraoka et al teaches a production process of a foam sheet according to claim 1, wherein a foamable composition, containing an acid generator that generates an acid or a base generator that generates a base due to an action of an active energy beam (Paragraph 0356 naphthylimidyl trifluoromethane sulfonate), and containing a compound that has a decomposing foamable functional group that decomposes and eliminates one or more types of low boiling point volatile substances by reacting with the acid or base (Paragraph 0356 PS/PtBA copolymer), is formed into the shape of a sheet (Paragraph 0349), and the foamable composition formed in to the shape of a sheet is foamed by heating as necessary and the irradiating with an active energy beam (Paragraph 0346).

Regarding claim 4, Hiraoka et al teaches a production process of a foam sheet according to claim 1, wherein the step in which the foamable composition is formed into the shape of a sheet is an extrusion forming step (Paragraph 0349).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL T. PIERY whose telephone number is (571)270-5047. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joe Del Sole can be reached on (571)272-1130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MTP

/Joseph S. Del Sole/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4123